THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Government of India have signed the Inter-governmental Agreement on Trans Asian Railway. The Agreement defines and lists the railway lines of international importance. It does not divide Trans Asian Railway network into any specific three corridors.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Proposal for Railway division in Kerala

710. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority of Kerala had submitted resentments after the year 2005 against incorporating the railway stations situated in Kerala as a part of the railway divisions of other States;

(b) if so, the details including the status of above resentment;

(c) whether there is any proposal/suggestion for a railway division with divisional office located at Kerala;

(d) if so, the details including the status of above proposal; and

(e) if not, the reasons in detail for not forming a railway division with divisional office located in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) Yes, Sir. Apprehensions have been raised by Very Important Persons (VIPs) including the Chief Minister of Kerala over the jurisdiction of proposed Salem Division.

(b) The Chief Ministers of Kerala and Tamilnadu have been requested for a joint meeting to solve the issues amicably.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

New Train between Bangalore and Visakhapatnam

711. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to introduce a new train between Bangalore and Visakhapatnam *via* Secunderabad;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Railways have not met passenger needs on this Sector connecting three important cities of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka;

(c) what short-term measures will be taken to meet the demand for accommodation on the Bangalore-Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam Sector; and

(d) the details of interim steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) There is no proposal at present to introduce new train between Bangalore-Visakhapatnam *via* Secunderabad. However, 2805/2806 Visakhapatnam-Tenali Janmabhoomi Express has been extended to Secunderabad from 01.07.2007 with cancellation of 2719/2720 Secunderabad-Tenali Nagarjun Express and it is proposed to introduce Secunderabad-Yesvantpur Garib Rath Express (Tri-weekly) during 2007-2008. Further, load of 2805/2806 Janmabhoomi Express has been increased from 18 to 21 coaches from 15.07.2007. These will increase the accommodation for Visakhapatnam-Secunderabad and Secunderabad-Bangalore passenger.

Implementation of upgradation policy

712. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced an innovative policy of upgrading AC-3 tier and AC-2 tier passenger whenever there is a vacancy in AC-Ist Class;

(b) whether this policy is being implemented properly;

(c) whether it is a fact that upgrading is not being done properly on running trains;

(d) how Government would ensure that upgrading is done on all trains; and

(e) the steps proposed to ensure that vacant accommodation is not being misallotted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Upgradation of passengers to higher class is done by the computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) at the time of preparation of charts without realisation of additional fare. This facility is not available in running trains.

(d) Upgradation of passengers to higher class is already being done in all Mail/ Express trains having sleeping accommodation.

(e) The upgradation is done by the computerised system without any manual intervention.

Food supplied in trains

713. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps his Ministry has taken to improve the quality of the food provided in the trains;

(b) whether there is an inspection team which looks into the quality of food from time to time;